

MARIBUNA

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Dedicated to the Interests of the Marianas

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It's Monday Buenas Marianas

News in Brief

Contemptuous Ted • The Superior Court finds controversial Saipan lawyer Ted Mitchell, along with clients Jeanne Rayphand and Rep. Stanley T. Torres, in contempt of court in connection with Mitchell's work on a lawsuit involving a major shopping mall project. See story on page 3.

Rota and Tinian depressed? • A Rota senator introduces a bill that would declare Rota and Tinian "economically depressed zones." See story on page 4.

Challenge champions • Marianas High School's team wins this year's CNMI Academic Challenge. See story on page 5.

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US/International News Pages 11-13

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TODAY'S WEATHER



Forecast: Mostly cloudy skies with widely scattered showers. Winds east 10-25 mph, with gusts to 25. High temperatures in the mid-80s. **Sunrise:** 6:18 a.m.

BY FLOR B. PAMINTUAN

While he's still governor of the Commonwealth, Governor Froilan C. Tenorio said on Friday, MTC will never be given a chance to lay an underwater fiber optic cable in the CNMI.

Tenorio made the statement after being told that the Legislature is leaning towards approving the MTC's proposal for a submerged lands lease and rejecting the GST Telecom Inc. lease agreement that had been submitted to the Legislature.

The governor stressed that any bill passed by the Legislature allowing MTC to lay the fiber optic cable will be awaiting his veto.

"Let me make myself very clear, if GST doesn't get the submerged lands lease, then MTC will never get it. Not in my administration," Tenorio said.

The governor explained that the GST lease, rather than with MTC's, will benefit the CNMI. GST, being a private carrier, will not impose higher telephone rates than MTC, he said.

The governor has sent two letters to the Legislature urging them to approve GST's land lease agreement because of its benefit to the people of the Commonwealth.

According to public information officer Mark Broadhurst, the deal with GST

is for the benefit of the CNMI and the consumer. "If the company (GST) loses, they will not charge it to the telephone users unlike with MTC who can impose higher phone rates to cover-up the expenses once they didn't make it," he explained.

If GST's lease agreement will be approved, residents of the Commonwealth can expect about 75 percent decrease in long distance calls to the United States.

The carriers who will be renting the circuits will be charging each call about 50 to

60 cents per minute, compared to the present rate of \$1.85 per minute.

However, members of the Legislature seem likely to approve MTC's proposal because of GST's three-year moratorium provision.

Meanwhile, the governor revealed that GST won't accept the deal if the three-year moratorium provision will be deleted.

"GST won't accept the proposal so I have to veto that bill and of course with MTC, I will have to veto that thing also," Tenorio pointed out.

Feds expected to arrive today



Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio (left), CUC Executive Director Tim Villagomez (right), who is also the executive director of the governor's water emergency task force, and CDA Chairman Juan S. Tenorio (center, without hat, between Tenorio and Villagomez) inspect the latest water pipeline installation project along Beach Road last week. For more on the project, see story on page 3.

If everything goes well, staffers from top Republican members of the US House of Representatives will arrive this afternoon.

The 10-man delegation composed of staffers from the Offices of Majority Leader Dick Armey, Reps. Gil Gutknecht, Billy Tauzin, Majority Whip Tom DeLay and Chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee Phil Crane are expected to arrive at 2:10 this afternoon.

However, the names of the individuals have not been finalized since last minute changes have occurred.

According to public information officer Mark Broadhurst, there's a potential budget crisis in Washington and a lot of them may be requested to stay.

Most of the members of the delegation, Broadhurst said are those who make recommendations and are the ones who are really involved in the formulation of positions taken by con-

gressmen on certain issues.

He added that they belong to offices of congressional members who handle committees that deal with CNMI and other insular affairs.

Broadhurst said that the list will be received this morning by their office.

The delegation are scheduled to meet with the governor, members of the Legislature, other government officials especially on labor and immigration.

They will look into improvements made the present administration with regard to areas of concern like minimum wage, labor and immigration, garment factories and human rights abuse.

"The administration wants to show them the good things about the Commonwealth. We want to show them that the problems in the past are being addressed by the present administration," he said.



INSIDE THE TRIB

U.S. Senate committee passes fishing rights bill

Last Thursday, the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee approved amendments to the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act to foster fisheries development in the Northern Marianas and other Pacific insular areas.

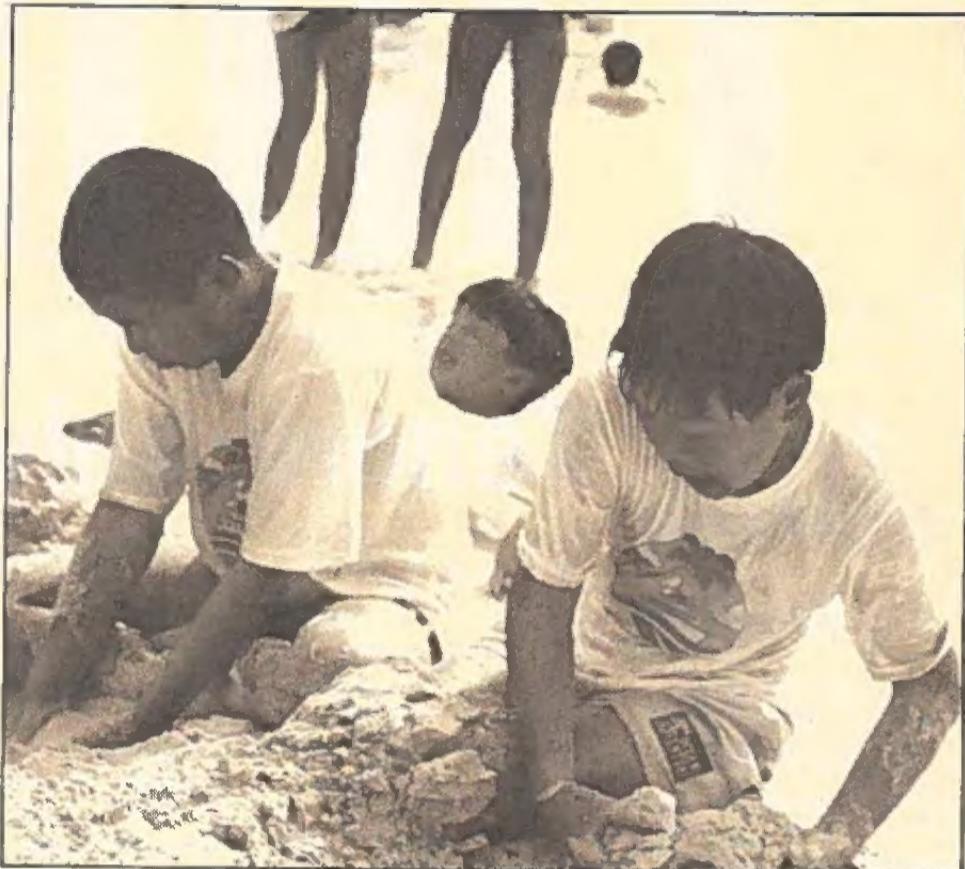
Lt. Gov. Jesus C. Borja had urged the committee to support the Pacific insular area provisions in the bill. Many of these provisions had been proposed by Borja in a Senate hearing last June in Honolulu.

The lieutenant governor expressed satisfaction with the Senate committee's action.

"This is not a perfect bill from the Commonwealth's point of view," he said, "but it gives us much better prospects for serious development of our fisheries resources than anything we have had before. We will have access to federal expertise in developing our fisheries, and fisheries revenues will come to the Commonwealth. This is a very good step forward."

The bill approved by the committee would authorize the U.S. Secretary of State, with the consent of the governor, to negotiate and approve Pacific insular area fishing agreements to allow foreign fishing in the waters surrounding the Commonwealth. Revenues from these agreements would be deposited into the CNMI Treasury.

Borja has been in contact with a number of U.S. senators on the committee, urging them to support provisions he supports. The bill next goes to the full Senate for action.



Students from "Yojo TV Tera Koya School" from Shizuoka, Japan, get together for some fun on the beach during their recent annual visit to Saipan.

TRIBUNE

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Fast Facts

We are a newspaper dedicated to the interests of the Northern Marianas. We pride ourselves on bringing you the best-written, most appealing, intelligent, and thoughtful newspaper in the CNMI. Our news and seasoned reporting covers all the aspects of news, features, opinion and sports.

Readers prefer the Saipan Tribune because our comprehensive coverage of local news brings them all the news that counts the most. Our special features deal with a wide range of topics which are of interest to the community.

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The Saipan Tribune readership is representative of every age bracket, income group, education level, and ethnicity in the CNMI.

- Our readers include all of the CNMI's multi-cultural ethnicities.
- They consist of people engaged in all types of professions: upper management executives, professional and technical staff, rank-and-file employees, office workers and laborers.
- They have had elementary, secondary or college education.
- They recommend the Saipan Tribune to their family, relatives and friends.
- They belong to all age brackets.

No other newspaper has such consistent distribution and such a loyal readership. And, by remaining a free publication, the Tribune's circulation is the widest and most read, because our readers know that all they have to do is reach down, pick us up and bring us home.

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